

Amendment and Response

Applicant: James O. Beehler

Serial No.: 10/701,787

Filed: November 4, 2003

Docket No.: 200309168-1

Title: PLATEN HAVING CHANNELS AND METHOD FOR THE SAME

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed July 9, 2007, in which claims 1-4, 7-13, 18-21, and 24-33 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claims 4, 21, 27, and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 18, 25, and 29 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-3, 7-20, 24-26, 28, 29, and 31-33, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Election/Restriction

Applicant notes that in the Response to the Election/Restriction requirement of August 2, 2005, Applicant considered claims 1-6, 9, 11, 12, 18-23, and 25-29; as well as claims 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 24 to be readable on the elected species. The withdrawn claims, therefore, should be claims 14, 16, and 17. As such, claim 15 should be considered and should not be withdrawn as claim 15 is readable on the elected species.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 18-21, and 24-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato JP 08156351 in view of Ishii US Publication No. 2003/0085980.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the channel has **"a varying cross-sectional area comprising varying a depth and a width of the channel along at least a portion of the length thereof,"** wherein **"the channel has a first end and a second end opposite the first end,"** wherein **"the depth of the channel at the second end is less than the depth of the channel at the first end,"** wherein **"the width of the channel at the first end is greater than the width of the channel at the second end,"** and wherein **"the air passage extends from the first end of the channel."**

With this Amendment, independent claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the channel has **"a varying cross-sectional area comprising varying a depth and a width of the channel along at least a portion of the length thereof,"** wherein **"the channel has a first end and a second end opposite the first end,"** wherein **"the depth of the channel at the second end is less than the depth of the channel at the first end,"** wherein **"the width**

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of the channel at the first end is greater than the width of the channel at the second end," and wherein "the air passage extends from the first end of the channel."

With this Amendment, independent claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the method includes **"controlling the negative pressure applied to the media sheet to suction the media sheet to the contact surface of the platen by providing the channel with a varying cross-sectional area comprising varying a depth and a width of the channel along at least a portion of a length of the channel,"** wherein **"the channel has a first end and a second end opposite the first end,"** wherein **"the depth of the channel at the second end is less than the depth of the channel at the first end,"** wherein **"the width of the channel at the first end is greater than the width of the channel at the second end,"** and wherein **"the air passage extends from the first end of the channel."**

With this Amendment, independent claim 29 has been amended to clarify that the channel means has **"a varying cross-sectional area comprising a varying depth and a varying width,"** wherein **"a depth of the channel means at a second end portion is less than a depth of the channel means at a first end portion,"** wherein **"a width of the channel means at the first end portion is greater than a width of the channel means at the second end portion,"** and wherein **"the negative pressure is delivered to the first end portion of the channel means."**

With respect to the Sato and Ishii references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not disclose a platen for supporting a media sheet as claimed in independent claim 1, do not disclose a printer device configured to support a media sheet as claimed in independent claim 18, do not disclose a method for supporting media in a printer device as claimed in independent claim 25, and do not disclose a platen for supporting a media sheet as claimed in independent claim 29.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 18, 25, and 29, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, are each patentably distinct from the Sato and Ishii references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7-13, 18-21, and 24-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-3, 7-20, 24-26, 28, 29, and 31-33 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-3, 7-20, 24-26, 28, 29, and 31-33 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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